LENTEN EARLY MORNING PRAYER MARCH 2, 2026

6:30 – 6:40am: Praise Song

-During this time, we will learn a new praise song that invites us to open our hearts before God

O Come to the Altar - Elevation Worship
https://youtu.be/OpfuKKH_SCE
Songwriters: Wade Joye / Mack Donald Iii Brock / Christopher Joel Brown / Steven Furtick

Are you hurting and broken within?
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin?
Jesus is calling

Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well?
Jesus is calling

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today, there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling

Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes, a new life is born
Jesus is calling

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Oh, what a Savior
Isn't He wonderful?
Sing Hallelujah, Christ is risen
Bow down before Him
For He is Lord of all
Sing Hallelujah, Christ is risen

Oh, what a Savior
Isn't He wonderful?
Sing Hallelujah, Christ is risen
Bow down before Him
For He is Lord of all
Sing Hallelujah, Christ is risen

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you found

6:40 – 6:50am: Scripture Reading & Devotional

Today's reading comes from John 9:1-14

Many want to read this passage as literal as possible. They use these verses to find an explanation for congenital illness and disease. And sometimes, the well intentioned explanation results in more harm and hurt. To explain away a real struggle and challenge as if it was God's fickle nature and manipulation to get us to pay attention to him is, simply put, spiritual abuse.
So, let us rather read as the author of the Gospel of John intended. Let us remember that John is presenting Jesus as the one who comes from God, to point us to God that we might believe and have eternal life. With this perspective, we turn to the scripture passage.

There are many types of blindness. Physical blindness, spiritual blindness, blindness to others' struggles, blindness to surroundings and spatial awareness, and so on. Now then, let us ask the question this way – are we spiritual blind (or blind to others' struggles) because of our parents or because of ourselves?

Jesus answers that if we cannot see, then it is time to turn to God who gives light. With light we can do the works of God. Perhaps we have not been taught by our parents to search for God, to see and empathize with the plight of others, to be aware of our surroundings and not inconvenience others. Or perhaps, we are intentionally selfish, choosing our own interests over the interests of others. Either way, now is the time to repent and turn away from such perspectives and choices. We cannot do this on our own. We must come to Jesus for this healing from blindness.
Look at how Jesus heals the blind man in scriptures. Jesus spits on the ground and makes mud. Where else have we seen mud? Or hands that have reached into the ground to form something? Think of Genesis 2:7 – "Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life".
"He made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes."
Dust. Mud. Made. Breathed into. Washed.
The blind man is now made new. Born again. Like the first humans made from dust of the earth. Made and breathed into, so now this man is made again, with mud and water, washed and now able to see.
Jesus is the one who makes us new.
If we have been blind before to God, to our surroundings, to our sources of pain and to the source of pain in others, then let us come to Jesus who can make us new so that we can see. Let us come to the cross and repent. Let us allow Jesus to make us new.

One final note. Not everyone will accept us, even if we are made new. This is what happened to the man in the Scriptures. He was now able to see, now able to do as Jesus taught, but the people did not believe. They did not even think he was the same man, ignoring his words and actions. Not everyone will believe us, for not everyone believed Jesus either. Nevertheless, let us continue to share the truth – that Jesus healed us. Jesus is the one who made us new so that we can now see.

6:50 – 7:10am: Prayer

First, pray for peace and reconciliation around the world. We know of Ukraine and Russia, the Middle East, part of Africa, southeast Asia, Haiti. There may be many others that we don't know of and yet they are suffering. Let us pray for safety. Let us pray for rescue.

Secondly, pray for our country. For moral and righteous leadership. For right judgment by policy makers and decision makers. For all decisions to be made for the good of all and not in the selfish interest of few.

Thirdly, pray for our friends and family. Pray for those who need healing and for those who need comfort. God promises challenges are not for punishment but for us to draw near to God. Through Jesus, we are made new and born to new and eternal life.

Lastly, pray for our eyes. That we may see as God sees. That with the light of Jesus, we can do the works he calls us to do.

7:10 – to whenever: Personal prayer time

-During this time, there will be gentle instrumental music that will play in the background and all are invited to stay as long as they wish in prayerful posture, lifting up everything into God's hands.